Message Text

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11-65R ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 SYE-00 ISO-00 /006 W

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P R 031235Z AUG 76 CORRECTED COPY FOR MCN FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4909 AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

CONFIDENTIAL DHAHRAN 0984

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON RUMORED PALESTINIAN OPERATION IN EASTERN

PROVINCE

REF: DHAHRAN 0948

- 1. INTIAL SOURCE AGAIN MADE CONTACT WITH NCOIC. HE REPORTED NAME OF SHIP PALESTINIANS PLANNED TO HIT AS THE FRED DAVIES (NOTE: THE DAVIES IS AN ELDERLY ARAMCO TANKER WHICH HAS BEEN USED AN AN OIL TRANSFER HULK AT RAS TANURA. IT WAS RECENTLY MADE READY FOR SEA AND IS EXPECTED TO STEAM TO A POSITION OFF JIDDA FOR SERVICE AS A STORAGE FACILITY FOR JET FUEL).
- 2. SOURCE TOLD NCOIC LOCAL PALESTINIANS CALLED IN AN "OUTSIDE GROUP" TO SURVEY OPERATIONAL POSSIBILITIES AGAINST THE DAVIES. HE NOTED THE "OUTSIDE GROUP" TOLD LOCALS SHIP WAS TOO OLD TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION. THE GROUP ADDED, SOURCE SAID, THAT SECURITY WAS TIGHT AND IT WOULD BE BETTER TO FORGET THE WHOLE THING -- AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING.
- 3. SOURCE ALSO TOLD NCOIC HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT AT LEAST TWO HIGHLY PLACED LOCAL PALESTINIAN BUSINESSMEN CAUTIONED RADICAL ELEMENTS THAT ANY OPERATION IN SAUDI ARABIA WOULD PROVE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE. THE BUSINESSMEM MADE STRONG POINT THAT AN OPERATION IN THE KINGDOMWOULD SURELY RESULT IN UNTOLD TROUBLE FOR PALESTINIAN COMMUNVHY IN CAUSINGTHE CUTTING OFF OF SAUDI CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAUSE. THEY MADE POINT THAT SAUDI GOVERNMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN HEAVY AND AN OPERATION WOULD CERTAINLY KILL AN EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE GOOSE.

4. RSO GUTENSHON MET WITH BRIGADIER GENERAL MOHAMMAD MALKY AND

COLONEL AHMED MULTANI OF THE SAUDI GENERAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE TIZY#. MALKY IS CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS IN THE EASTERN PROVINCE AND MULTANI HIS DEPUTY. THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED OF RUMOR AT TIME IT CAME TO ATTENTION OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL. MALKY STATED ALL SAUDI POLICE INVESTIGATIVE AND INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATIONS HAD BEEN ALERTED AND WERE ACTIVELY CHECKING ALL SOURCES.

5. BG MALKY STATED HIS AN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HAD OBTAINED NO PERTINENT INFORMATION. HE TOLD RSO THAT IF SOMETHING WAS AFOOT "CONSIDERING THE AMOUNT OF TIME AND MONEY WE SPEND IN MONITORING SUCH GROUPS" HE WOULD CERTAINLY KNOW ABOUT IT. HE ADDED THE SAUDIS

VIEW SUCH RUMORS WITH UTMOST SERIOUSNESS AND THAT INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE. HE STATED THE CONSULATE GENERAL WILL BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY RESULTS.

6. AS NOTED PREVIOUSLY, ALL POSSIBLE PROTECTIVE PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE SAUDIS AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL. WILL INFORM IMMEDIATE OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS. BUSHNELL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: PALESTINIANS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, TERRORISTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 03 AUG 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004

Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason: **Disposition Remarks:**

Document Number: 1976DHAHRA00984 Document Source: ADS Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: 11652 GDS Errors: n/a Film Number: D760298-1223 From: DHAHRAN Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197608103/baaaescm.tel Line Count: 79

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION SY

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Authority: GarlanWA Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 21 JUN 2004 **Review Event:**

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: UPDATE ON RUMORED PALESTINIAN OPERATION IN EASTERN

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, SA To: STATE

JIDDA INFO KARACHI

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006